

Vision - A World Class School

Arbor Heights' School Communicator

Communications for Our Community from "Your Principal"

arborheights.wikispaces.com/Principals+Corner

April 26, 2012

Dear Arbor Heights Parents:

We are approaching that time of year when we consider your child's classroom and teacher assignment for the 2012-2013 school year. Student placement is one of our most important staff responsibilities. The staff at Arbor Heights Elementary work very hard to make educationally sound placements and we look forward to your written comments as to the educational needs you'd like for us to consider for next year.

We consider each classroom is a small learning community. We support the premise that classrooms need to be representative of the various social, academic, and physical needs and abilities of all students. We strive to achieve a range of balance among these factors while meeting individual needs. Let me share the many points our staff will consider when placing students in the classrooms for next year.

First, we need to consider the number of classes required at each grade level. As of April 16, our enrollment numbers reflect growth in some grade levels and a decrease in others. I am presently working with staff to determine who will move to a new grade level and how Spectrum students will be served in the combination classrooms. As enrollment services continues to assign students, including movement of some students to the STEM program at Boren are confirmed, there will be changes to the information below.

Please note the following grade level configurations for next year and carefully read the process we follow for student placement. Your input is highly regarded. Be assured your information, along with sending grade level teacher and general staff recommendations will be used to make the best possible placement for your child and all children within each grade level.

The shaded/highlighted rows indicate a combination classroom for the two grade levels. Except for the K-1, the combination classrooms will include students qualifying as Spectrum.

Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
26	No Spectrum K-1				
26	Combination				
26					
8	16				
	26				
	26				
	11	13			
		26			
		26			
		4	21		
			27	28	4-5 Combination
				27	
				6	20
					28

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APRIL**Apr 28**

~PTA Spring Clean-up Day 9:00-12:00pm

MAY**May 1**

~PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

May 7

~Monday Morning Monthly Meeting 9:30am

May 7-11

~Teacher Appreciation Week

May 16

~Early Dismissal 1:00pm

May 17

~PTA General Meeting 6:30pm

May 24

Spring Concert

Day 2:00-3:00pm

Evening 7:00-8:00pm

May 28

~Memorial Day Holiday

May 29-Jun 1

~5th Grade Outdoor Education

JUNE**June 2**

~Carnival 3:00-6:00pm

June 5

~Volunteer Recognition

Luncheon 11:30-1:00pm

~PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

**~From the PTA~**

~We need lots of volunteers at the Carnival to make it a successful and fun event for our kids and families. We need volunteers for set up (Friday 6/1 pm or Saturday 6/3 12-3), clean up (Saturday 6-8pm) and the following in shifts of 3:00-4:30pm or 4:30-6pm: concessions, ticket sales, BBQers, dunk tankes, games, rides (indoor and outdoor), cotton candy, popcorn, tattoos, face paints, art. We also need a BBQ or two, coolers and awnings if anyone can loan them for that day. Look for the sign-up sheets or email Dana Varon directly.

If you are interested in helping with the planning committee, it would entail meeting with the coordination team on Sunday, April 29th at 5pm for an hour. You can also contact Dana Varon directly, 206-427-8329 or dana.varon@comcast.net.

~We also want to announce an up-coming Edible Plant Sale. The order options/forms will be going home on Monday, April 23rd and need to be returned before Monday May 7th. The plants are being grown for each order. Plant delivery will be June 3rd at the Carnival.

~Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7th-May 11th. We would like to encouraging everyone to take time to thank their kid's teachers and all staff. The PTA will be providing "special treats" for the staff throughout the week!

~A BIG thank you to everyone for organizing and helping, at the Hawk-A-Thon. Thank you all for making this happen!

~We need your help to make these Spring activities a success: Spring Clean-up, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, Field Day and Spring Carnival as well as ongoing activities such as Communications Committee, Grant Writing Committee, Playground Help and Office Help. Please fill out the Spring Vol-unteer Flyer that came home with your child or view/download it here

<http://arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Volunteering>



Placement Criteria

Whether we are creating a straight grade, or a combination grade classroom, at Arbor Heights Elementary School we place students in classes that are balanced, based on the following:

- Academic Achievement, including Spectrum
- Behavioral needs
- Social needs
- Ethnicity
- Boy/girl ratio
- Teacher input
- Parent input

I would like to take this opportunity to explain how we will use the Parent Input Form information for the placement of students. This year we will diligently work to maintain classrooms that are balanced using our stated criteria.

Therefore, when stating the type of learning environment in which your child works best, please note that this important information will be utilized by next year's teacher to know and plan from. Teacher names should not be included on the Parent Input Form and will not be considered as criteria for placement.

Time and care will be taken to create balanced classes using the following process:

1. Parents/guardians wishing to complete a Parent Input Form may do so between April 30 and May 11. These forms must be used for any parent input to be considered and are available in the school's kiosk (located on the office entry door).
2. Teachers will work as grade level teams aside a specialist, special education teacher and the principal to create balanced classrooms for school year 2012 – 2013.
3. If enrollment numbers change requiring further adjustments to class-lists we will adhere to the criteria noted above to ensure balanced, instructionally sound classrooms for 2012-13.
4. Notification will be made in August via posting or individual post-card.

Sincerely,

Christy Collins

Principal